



Foreign Agricultural Service

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## **Thailand**

### **Grain and Feed**

### **Weekly Rice Price Update**

**2003**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

Export prices changed slightly as market remained quiet.

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Bangkok [TH1], TH

**Indicative Price (Week Ending Apr 21):**

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	477	450	499	477	460	460	480	472	463
WR 100 B	200	203	202	201	199	199	198	200	200
PB 5%	186	195	193	191	186	194	188	190	191
WR 5%	196	198	198	195	194	194	193	195	195
WR 10%	191	193	195	190	190	191	188	191	191
WR 15%	187	188	192	183	185	188	183	187	186
WR 25%	182	181	187	176	180	171	178	179	178
WR 35%	177	176	185	173	175	168	173	175	174
A 1 SUP	144	146	143	143	142	140	140	143	142
A 1 SPEC	142	144	142	141	141	NQ	139	142	141
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

**Market Tone**

Export prices for most grades of rice changed slightly as the market remained quiet. Regarding the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in China, Hong Kong and Singapore, the Thai Ministry of Agriculture estimated that it could result in a contraction of Thai rice exports by about 5 percent unless the outbreak could be controlled within 6 months, due to a sharp drop in numbers of tourists. However, trade sources reported that rice exports to these nearby markets were expected to grow at a decreasing rate as household consumption will likely remain strong particularly in China. In CY 2002 Thai rice exports to these markets totaled 821,809 metric tons (10 percent of total Thai rice exports), of which 590,032 metric tons were fragrant rice.

**The following are reported rice exports (as is basis):**

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
MAR 16	72,278	72,019	827	1,541
MAR 23	77,084	72,255	905	1,666
MAR 30	74,718	67,842	979	1,785
APR 6	98,474	80,639	1,078	1,874
APR 13	70,447	80,181	1,148	1,957
APR 20	43,896	71,884	1,192	2,053

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002 do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports for Apr 14-20, 2003, totaled 43,896 tons, down 26,551 tons from the previous week's total and down 27,988 tons from the four week moving average of 71,884 tons. This contraction could be linked to the long holiday of Thai New Year festival during April 13-16. Exports during Jan 1- Apr 20, 2003, totaled 1,192 thousand tons, compared with 2,053 thousand tons (including fragrant rice) during the same period in 2002.

According to the Department of Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan1 - Apr 11, 2003 amounted to 1,801,560 tons, down 7.3 percent from 1,943,332 tons during the same period in 2002.

**Weekly Rice Sales**

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Mar 31 - Apr 4, Apr 7-11, and Apr 14-18, 2003 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Mar 31- Apr 4	Apr 7-11	Apr 14-18
weekly sales	141,487	109,347	49,769
4 week sum	338,762	373,778	358,502
4 week mov avg.	84,691	93,445	89,626
Total weekly sales	1,201,138	1,310,485	1,360,254